WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Amendment in coal Mines Act, 1973

1199. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 has been amended to allow private Indian Companies to mine coal and lignite for captive consumption and sale;

(b) if so, what are the targets for production of both in public and private sector for the year 1997-98; and

(c) the target achieved during the period April to September, 1997?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) After the Coal mines (Nationlisation) Act, 1973 was amended in 1976 and 1993 the companies engaged in iron and steel production, power generation and such other and uses as notified by the Central Government from time to time are allowed to do captive coal mining. Under the powers conferred by this amendment, a gazette notification was issued on 15.3.96 to allow production of cement as an end use for captive mining of coal. The above amendments to the Act as well as the gazette notification of 15.3.96 apply to both the public sector and private sector.

No amendment has been made in the above Act to allow sale of coal to parties other than captive consumers.

(b) and (c) The captive coal mining companies fix their own production target to meet their needs. Production from the captive coal mines in the financial year 1997-98, which includes the period from April 1997 to September 1997 was 7.53 million tonnes.

Vigilance cases against the Director of Northern Coal Field Ltd.

1200. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Director (Personnel) Northern Coal Field Limited is involved in various vigilance cases for which CVC has imposed/recommended major penalty;

(b) whether such officers who are found involved in such vigilance cases can't be allowed to work on such an important and sensitive seat according to Government norms; and

(c) if so, the reasons for allowing such an officer to continue on a important seat and action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) to (c) Disciplinary proceedings have been initiated against the officer by Government. A final view in the matter can be taken only after completion of the proceedings.

Coal reserves

1201. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Coal reserves in India are estimated to be over 200 billion tonnes; and

(b) if so, the reasons that Government are not exploiting this resource by liberalising its policies to encourage foreign investment and private participation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Yes Sir. As per assessment of Geological Survey of India (GSI) on 1.1.98 the coal reserves up to a depth of 1200 metres in the country are over 206 billion tonnes.

(b) By an amendment in the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 mining

by private parties has now been allowed for captive use in the steel power and cement sector.

Accidents and deaths in Coal Mines

1202. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people killed and injured in the accidents in coal mines in the country during the last 5 years, year-wise;

(b) whether there is any improvement of safety measures taken;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the amount of compensations paid in respect of the deceased and the injured?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) The number of persons killed and injured in accidents in coal mines in Coal India Limited (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) in the last five years year-wise is given below:—

Year	No. of fatalities		No. of serious injuries	
	CIL	SCCL	CIL	SCCL
1993	132	31	461	270
1994	131*	50	673	254
1995	115**	21	612	191
1996	110	29	505	147
1997	112	35	437	125

* Excluding 55 fatelities in the New kenda disaster

** Excluding 77 fatalities in the Gaslitand disaster.

(b) The following measures are being taken to further improve the safety of coal mines:

(i) Constant and continuous monitoring of safety is being done through monthly minewise reports of Safety Status and regular review of safety performance of each subsidiary company at CIL level coordination meetings with the Chief General manager (S)/ General Manager(S).

(ii) Special Safety Audit of all mines of CIL has been done and action plans are drawn up for corrective action in the cases where these are indicated.

(iii) Surprise inspections are being carried out by officers of Internal Safety Organisation to check the safety status with special attention in the areas of roof support and operation of opencast machinery. ISO at subsidiary company level are doing like-wise.

This has now been supplemented with surprise inspections by a high power sub-committee of the CIL. Safety Board comprising Trade union representatives an experienced mining engineer and representatives of CIL and subsidiary companies.

(iv) Soruces of danger as revealed by inspections accident enquiry reports, Safety Audits and monthly reports from subsidiary companies on the Safety Status of each and